

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claim 16 has been allowed.

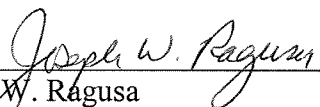
Claims 10-15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent 6,807,275 (Kubo et al.) in view of U.S. 6,144,358 (Narayanaswamy et al.).

The Kubo et al. patent has an earliest U.S. effective filing date of November 1, 2000, which is after the filing date of the Japanese Priority application for this case (May 17, 2000). A verified translation of Japanese Priority application 2000-145407 is being filed herewith. The filing of this translation removes Kubo as a reference against the claims, thus obviating the rejection of all the claims.

In view of the filing of the translation of the priority document, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: December 13, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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